

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims and New Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the entire tag is a singular piece. The new language is supported in the original specification at page 3, line 1.

New claims have been added to recite various aspects of the indicia and the tag. Support for the new claim can also be found on page 3, third and fourth paragraphs.

Claim Objection

The claims were objected to for containing identification numerals non-enclosed in parenthesis. The numerals have been deleted.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Geno et al in view of Reese et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

Geno is applied for the teachings regarding an airspring with a retainer. Reese is applied for teaching a tag made from a sheet material, wherein a portion of the tag is non-removably secured between a sleeve and a retainer. It is held that it would have been obvious to have the tag of Reese on the airspring of Geno for the purpose of providing identification of the part.

Reese discloses a tag (11) secured to a sleeve (12) and a retainer (13) by means of a wire (10). The rejection appears to consider the wire (10) as a portion of the tag in order to obviate the claim. This is incorrect, the wire is not a portion of the tag but separate and joined to the tag by means of the wire end loop and a wire extending through a hole in the tag (11). The tag (11) itself is never secured to the airspring.

In applying the teachings of Reese to the teachings of Geno, the wire 10 would be secured between the sleeve and the retainer, enabling the tag itself to freely move. This is contrary to the disclosed and claimed invention. In the tag of the present invention, a portion of the tag itself is secured between the sleeve and the retainer. To clarify the invention, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the entire tire is a singular piece.

As Reese fails to disclose forming the tag as a unitary piece wherein a portion of the tag is non-removably secured, the combined references fail to teach or disclose all of the claimed elements, a requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 103. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims as being obvious over Geno et al. in view of Reese et al be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication of allowable subject matter is appreciated. The content of claims 3 and 4 have been redrafted into separate independent claims 10 and 11.

Prior Art Made of Record

Rensel is noted as teaching an air spring comprising a tag. The identification tag disclosed by Rensel is actually an electronic tag that transmits data regarding the air spring to an electronic device. It is not a tag made of a sheet material as recited nor as disclosed by Applicant.

Hendrickson discloses a label of the type conventionally made from an adhesive backed paper and is typically applied to the top surface of the retainer, with the mounting bolt, the air inlet, or air outlet valve extending through the center of the label.

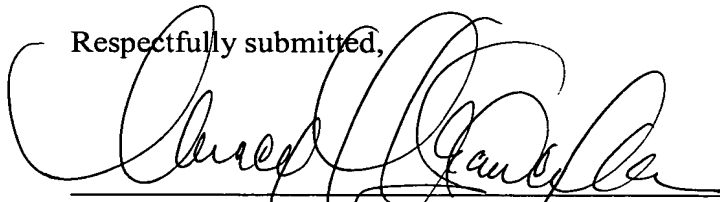
Hoffman discloses a tag made of a single piece, but the tag is removable.

Robinson discloses a tag made of a single piece to be used on paint can lids. While the end of the tag extends through one or two holes in the can lid, the tag is removable from the can itself when the lid is removable, and the tag is removable from the lid.

Barker discloses a tag for the front of a drum shaped bag. The entire tag is secured between the lid and the container body. Furthermore, the construction of the lid flanges permit slipping the flexible label under the flanges, and thus permit the removal of the label.

In light of the amendment and the arguments set forth, Applicant believes the claims now pending in the subject patent application are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate allowability of all the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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